



**Iowa Council for Early ACCESS
Minutes
September 22, 2006**

Members Attending:

Barb Merrill	Lana Michelson
Carol Nelson	LaMark Combs
Debra Sixta	Mary Nelson
Gina Greene	Maureen Schletzbaum
Glenn Baughman	Royann Mraz
Jan Mackey	Scott Beall
Jane Borst	Troy McCarthy
Jeff Lobas	Angela Burke Boston
Kelly Hancock	Pamela parker
Kyla Alba	Carrie Soddors

Members Excused

Michael Baldwin
Shannell Wagner
Dan Ellsberry
Mary Jane Brotherson
Michael Fay

Guests

Sheila Hansen

Pam Pfitzenmaier

Staff Attending

Shelley Ackermann
Jeannie Cox
Julie Curry
LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl
Lisa Sharp

Handouts:

Zero to Three – Federal Legislative Updates
Family Involvement in Early Childhood Education
Committees of the ICEA
Committees of the ICEA, Commitment to Serve

Building Linkages with Constituencies
Ways to Link the Council Activities with Your Constituency
Statewide Part C System Requirements
Department's Review and 616 Determination Criteria.

Call to Order

Troy McCarthy called the meeting to order. The newly appointed council members are: Mary Nelson-DHS Representative, and Gina Greene.

A video was shown entitled, "I'm Tyler (don't be surprised)." Gina Green (Tyler's mother) was asked to introduce the video. Tyler made the video as part of his Eagle Scout project. The video will be ordered for the Council members. The Website to order additional videos is: www.imtyler.org. This video sends a compelling message about the importance of being included and the concept of Ability Awareness.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Debra Sixta and seconded by Barb Merrill to approve the May minutes. The Council voted and approved the May minutes.

Kyla gave an update on the election of officers. The Council approved the slate of officers presented. They are Troy McCarthy-Chair, Kelly Hancock-Vice Chair, Glenn Baughman-Executive Committee, & Carolyn Nelson-Executive Committee.

Guest Speakers:

Shelley Ackermann, Lead Agency Early ACCESS Monitoring Consultant, showed a slide presentation of the Part C Monitoring and General Supervision components: parental surveys, regional self-assessments, transition C to B, Timely Correction of Noncompliance, and Corrective Action Plan (CAP). Also, a description of the Quality of Service Review (QSR) process was reviewed and the positive results this review provides to the Part C system.

Pam Pfitzenmaier, Administrator from the Department of Education explained the Offers to the Governor, budget requests and the process that goes through the Governor's office. The offer asks for 1.7 million to partially fund Early ACCESS. The Governor will need to recommend a budget to the legislature and then the buying team forwards it back to the Governor. It would be a good idea to submit a letter from the Council. Members were asked to talk to their constituents to inform them of the Offer. More information is on the website at www.everychildcountsiowa.org.

Executive Committee Update –there will be an amendment to Rule 281—120.59 Transmittal of Records in order for this Rule not to conflict with Rule 126.5. If there is an education record, it can be transmitted to another education agency without a parent's consent.

Dept. of Human Services was awarded a grant to serve a 10 county area around Dubuque and Child Health Specialty Clinics will be a major partner in its implementation. The goal of the grant is to develop a system of care for children with mental health issues.

Lead Agency Update – Lana Michelson

The Department of Education is supporting an “Offer” to the Governor for state funding of Early ACCESS.

There will be changes at the Dept. of Education regarding the processing of claims and finances that will be handled by internal operations. Council members make sure claims are submitted in a timely manner for reimbursement of expenses.

The Early ACCESS monitoring system will be tracked and implemented electronically. It will be a database to meet reporting requirements.

The State has experienced a decrease in federal funding, however, infants and toddlers in Early ACCESS have increased from 2% to 2.3 %.

There was a three-day visit by Westat (Federal Technical Assistance group) to examine our Part C and B monitoring procedures. They were impressed with the Quality Service Review and how we do our monitoring.

A handout was provided regarding how Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will determine state noncompliance versus compliance. The handout from OSEP identified noncompliance in four areas, but with corrections the State is now compliant in two out of the four areas of noncompliance. The State would not be considered under “needs intervention status”.

Policy Discussion-NICU's & Early ACCESS

Troy shared information about various hospitals and how they integrate Early ACCESS into their system. Kelly Schulte could not attend, so will give an update on procedures developed by the workgroup at the next Council meeting.

Council members made the following suggestions to guide Kelly's workgroup:

- Consistent statewide policies for NICU's
- Consistent training of Service coordinators so they are knowledgeable of conditions and needs/services of family and child; family centered services; and the linkages to community supports.
- Advertisement campaign like Hawk-I to talk about Early ACCESS; link to Iowa COMPASS as a resource.
- Convene a subgroup to make recommendations of policy, standards of guidelines for Level II & III hospitals.
- Would it be possible if hospitals could train service coordinators?

Here is what we expect to happen with NICU and Early ACCESS; establish relationship between systems (help with discharge planning; follow up in home).

- How to make transition to home from the hospital.
- Identify what is “value added” to families and the system
- Consider needs of other cultures/ethnicity
- Advocate for money for Early ACCESS
- High-risk infants should have a support system in place when they go home that is linked to Early ACCESS.

Standing Committee Reports

Governors Report – What are the messages we need to give to the governor’s office and the Legislature? Share family stories.

By Laws – has not been active but will need to convene after Federal Part C Regulations are out.

Nominating: Convenes in the spring

Membership –Kyla-The Governor is still in the process of appointing new members.

Public Policy Committee – January-review Part C Regulations, finances and “Offer” to the Governor.

Committee recruitment—a sign-up sheet for committee membership was passed around

Sharing:

Troy shared that his support group is having their first Buddy Walk. Troy was appointed to the National Down Syndrome Congress, Board of Directors.

Glenn Baughman- DHS changes to Medicaid due to noncompliance—can use Medicaid to pay for LPHA’s. Plan providers are making decisions that may affect Birth – 3 children. Some communities have little or no Licensed Practitioners of the Healing Art’s to do assessments. RTS (in-home treatment; parent training/treatment) will have to have ‘medically necessary’ designation. There is no money for reviewing and developing treatment plans. Changes are to move money from state to federal. LPHA’s have to sign plan and then turn over to someone to implement the plan and will have no role in monitoring. There will be implementation concerns.

Scott Beall – moved back to Des Moines

Barb Merrill – TEACH is now at ISU Extension in Polk Co.

Kelly Hancock- enjoyed Parents as Presenters training

Carolyn Nelson- talked about the Title V Fall Assembly and the Service Coordinator training held there. County Public Health dollars will go to health agencies and will require Early ACCESS involvement.

Carrie Soddors- Early Head Start and the AEAs will be piloting Positive Behavior Supports program

Royann Mraz- ABCDII will continue with State funds.

The new member Orientation will be November 16, 2006 from 5:00 to 8:30pm at Stoney Creek Inn, Johnston

The next council meeting will be November 17, 2006 from 10:00 to 3:00. LauraBelle Sherman-Proehl will facilitate stakeholder input for the SPP/APR indicators at the November meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.